Since landlords have not been undertaking repairs to flats of which Bank is a satutory tenant a few flats are in need of repairs. Steps are being taken by BRI to carry out the repairs to such flats after giving sufficient notice to the landlords.

Religion and castes columns in application forms for government jobs

2737. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHAVAKOLI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the application forms for Government jobs, educational institutions application for passports and many other such application forms contain a column asking caste and/or religion of the candidates;

(b) whether it is necessary to know the caste and/or religion of a candidate; and

(c) if so, what is the reasons thereof and if not, why this practice is being continued?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) In the application forms for examinations and recruitments there is a column asking the candidate to indicate whether he belongs to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe. He is not required to specify his caste if he does not belong to Scheduled Caste. If he claims to belong to Scheduled Caste, he is required to state his religion also. Others not belonging to Scheduled Castes are not required to state their religion. There is no column in the passport application form requiring an applicant to specify his caste and/or religion.

(b) and (c) Asking candidates to indicate whether they belong to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes is necessary to consider the candidates' eligibility for various concessions permissible to those belonging to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes in respect of age, fee, qualifications, number of chances at the examination, reservation of postss, etc. It is necessary to as certain the religion of such candidates in order to verify their claims as belonging to Scheduled Castes.

System of accounts of major public sector companies

2738. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the system of accounts of the major public sector companies under the Ministry of Finance have been found not upto the mark; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and to the extent available and permissible under the statutes, willl be laid on the Table of the House.

Taking over of Punjab and Sind Bank, London Branch by Bank of Baroda

2739. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the London Branch of Punjab & Sind Bank has been taken over by Bank of Baroda;

(b) whether it is a fact that since its opening unauthorised advances in crores of rupees have been given and now these have become bad and doubtful advances;